

REMARKS

Claim Rejections 35 USC §103:

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected to Claim 1 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Confuorto (U.S. Patent No. 6,551,565) in view of Shaw (U.S. Patent No. 3,753,337). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicant's Claim 1 teaches a process to separate solids from a solids laden gaseous flow by separating solids from the gaseous flow using a gas-solids separator and an underflow comprising the separated solids and part of the gaseous flow as fed to the gas-solids separator, separating part of the solids from the underflow in a cyclone wherein solids and a gaseous flow containing still some solids are obtained; and contacting the gaseous flow with water in the absence of a filter to separate the solids and obtain a gaseous flow containing between 0 and 50 mg/Nm³ solids; and combining the gaseous flows which are poor in solids.

Confuorto teaches a regenerator 11 that emits flue gas 100 that is separated by tertiary cyclone 12 into an overflow 101 and underflow 102. The underflow 102 is fed to a scrubber 15. (Confuorto, Figure 2). Confuorto does not teach or suggest the desirability of contacting the gaseous underflow with water to separate solids and obtain a gaseous flow containing between 0 and 50 mg/Nm³ solids as taught in Applicant's Claim 1.

The advantage of Applicant's invention, "is to provide a process, which results in a flue gas having a low solids content where no absolute filters have to be used." (Applicant's Published Application, paragraph [0006]).

The Examiner cited Shaw to remedy the defects of Confuorto. Shaw teaches a cyclone separator 10 with an outlet 14 which flows into a duct 18, and encounters a liquid sprayer 22 with spray nozzles 42 and 44, then a filter 24, before flowing into unit separator 20 where the liquids and solids are separated from the gas. Shaw teaches a filter, and does not teach or suggest the desirability of separating the solids from the underflow with water in the absence of a filter as recited in Applicant's Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 2-9 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 1 and allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

If the Examiner feels it would be useful to resolve any issues in this case he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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